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Department of History Newsletter

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Spring 2006

# Department of History Annual Newsletter, Spring 2006

St. Cloud State University

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*Some of the faculty and staff of the History Department.*

—Photo by Neil Andersen, University Photographer

## Letter from the Chair

It is both my duty and pleasure to welcome you to the department's newsletter for 2005/06. As the various pieces below will show, this is indeed a "young department," but one that is vibrant and heading toward a bright future.

First, I would like to thank everyone in the department for the excellent work they performed with regard to teaching, research, collegiality, civility, and maintaining professionalism. Both Betsy Glade and Janice Schlangen (History Office Manager) deserve special commendation for editing the newsletter and coordinating the various components of the

department, respectively. I also would like to recognize and thank the student workers and graduate assistants for the dedicated service they rendered to the department. The department highly commends those graduate students who were instrumental in reviving the Phi Alpha Theta Chapter at St. Cloud State University (SCSU).

One of the main highlights this year was hiring Maureen O'Brien and Jason Eden as probationary faculty. O'Brien, who was on a fixed-term appointment (2005/06), will teach courses in ancient and medieval his-

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## Letter from the Chair

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Peter Nayenga, History Department Chair

—Photo by Neil Andersen,  
University Photographer

tory. She replaces Richard Rothaus who was selected to become the permanent Assistant Vice-President for Research and Faculty Development at SCSU. Eden, who recently received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, will teach

courses in “Atlantic World History,” “Craft of Historians,” “Senior Research Seminar,” and “Race in America.” We heartily welcome both of them and thank the SCSU administration for their continued support of the History Department.

As part of planning for the future, the department held a day-long retreat on January 17, 2006, at the Radisson Hotel, St. Cloud. The following were some of the themes discussed at this retreat: What kind of department are we? What are our strengths and weaknesses? What challenges do we face? Are we serving our students, undergraduate and graduate? This retreat gave us an opportunity to reflect on many issues and we plan to follow up on some of the aspects raised at this meeting during academic year 2006/07. We are grateful to Sharon Cogdill (Interim Dean, College of Social Sciences, COSS) for the encouragement and financial assistance she gave to the department for this retreat.

The end-of-year party held on May 3, 2006, was another major highlight, particularly since it brought together students, faculty, professor emeriti, and some of the department’s financial donors. Aside from the wisdom we got from the “veterans,” students had a chance to chat with our donors whose generous contributions enable the department to realize its goals. Personally, this party was a high point for me because of the surprise commendation that was given to me as chair by the current history faculty. I greatly appreciate your support and thank you for electing me to a second term as your chair. We look forward to hearing from our supporters and thank them for their moral and material support.

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## Faculty News

### Robert Galler

Robert Galler recently completed his third year teaching at SCSU. This past year, he taught courses in Race in America, America to 1865, Native American history, Concepts and Theories in History (for social studies majors), and a new graduate readings/research class in American Indian History. Through the Teacher Quality Enhancement (TQE) grant with the College of Education, he also co-taught Concepts and Theories in History with a Social Studies teacher from Becker High School during the spring 2006 semester. Galler presented a paper titled “Adaptation, Cultural Persistence, and Alliance Formation on the Crow Creek Reservation [South Dakota], 1870-1900” at the 2005 annual meeting of the Western History Association in Arizona. Assisted by a SCSU Faculty Research grant, Galler continues to work on revising his manuscript focusing on Crow Creek Tribal School for publication by the University of Nebraska Press.

### Betsy Glade

Betsy Glade continues to teach Democratic Citizenship. In addition, in AY 2005-2006, she taught a topics course on Biographies of the Founders, as well as Women in History, and Civil War and Reconstruction. She once again coordinated a very exciting and successful Central Minnesota Regional History Day Contest with the help of several faculty, students, both graduate and undergraduate, and emeriti. Betsy will begin her tenth year at St. Cloud State University in the fall of 2006 and she will be taking on the role of Director of Social Studies Education for AY 2006-2007 while the College of Social Sciences searches for a replacement for long-time director Kathleen Maloney who retired in May of this year. This summer, Betsy will also be doing the preliminary groundwork and writing the proposal for St. Cloud State University to host the 2009 Northern Great Plains History Conference.

### John Harvey

John Harvey had three publications appear during the 2005-2006 academic year, including “Henri Hauser et les historiens américains pendant les entre-deux-guerres” in *International Henri Hauser (1866-1946) Humaniste-Historien-Républicain*, Paris, 2006: 245-266; a book review essay “The Social Role of ‘Lecture Critique’” for *H-France Review* Vol. 6, No. 1 (January 2006); and the article “Propaganda within an *Atelier des Recherches*: Refashioning the *Société d'Histoire Moderne*, 1918-1939,” in *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Western Society for French History* 32 (2005): 346-367.

### Don Hofsommer

Don Hofsommer’s continued interest in public history is reflected in the courses he teaches and his publications. He has recently published the following books: Minneapolis and the Age of Railways

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# Faculty News

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(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005); The "Hook & Eye": A History of the Iowa Central Railway (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005); and Steel Trails of Hawkeyeland: Iowa's Railroad Experience (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005).

## Mark Jaede

Mark Jaede has just completed his fourth year in the Department and his second as Director of Latin American Studies. He continues to teach Race in America and Latin American History. He has also designed and won approval for a new First Year Experience cohort for next year, entitled "Las Américas: Language and Peoples." This cohort will offer incoming students the chance to study the Spanish language and get an introduction to Latin American history, geography and culture as a coordinated package.

Mark had eight entries accepted for publication in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Slave Resistance and Rebellions* from Greenwood Press. He published two book reviews in the *Journal of the Early Republic* and one in *Ramsey County History*. Mark also gave a presentation entitled "'America' Talk," at the College of Social Science's faculty symposium in March. The talk examined the U.S. discourse about the concept of "America" and "Americans," and specifically the changing discourse about Latin America being "American" or not. He is slated to give a talk in September on the topic "The Americas in the Age of Elizabeth," as part of the visit of the "Elizabeth I" exhibit to the SCSU campus.

Mark also continues to be an active member of the Department, University and broader community. He served on a departmental search committee and represents the Department in the Faculty Senate. He is an active member of the Racial Issues Colloquium. He also has served as co-chair of the Regional Human Rights Office Task Force, a body which was chartered by area governments to explore the possibility of creating a regional office to help support the enforcement of human rights law.

## Marie Seong-Hak Kim

Since her return from a year in Korea as a Fulbright scholar in August 2005, Marie Kim has been busy working in Korean legal history. Her current research projects include custom and law under the Choson dynasty and colonial Korea, seen from a comparative perspective, and legal reforms during the Japanese protectorate rule focusing on the role of the Japanese jurist Ume Kenjiro. Meanwhile she has continued writing in early modern French history. Her article, "Michel de L'Hospital, un célèbre Aiguepersois combattant pour la justice et la paix civile," was published as the lead article in *Revue Sparsae* (France), No. 57 (January 2006), pp. 5-14. Another article, "Custom, Community, and the Crown: Lawyers and the Reordering of French Customary Law" will appear in *Between the Middle Ages and Modernity: Individual and Community in the Early Modern World* (Rowman and Littlefield), due for publication in late 2006.

## Richard Lewis

Dick Lewis continues to develop his interest in national security history. After developing a new course on the cold wars, last fall he taught a new course on modern intelligence history, titled "Spies in History." Using a spring semester sabbatical, he continued to work on a long term project, *Polish Historians in the Troubled Twentieth Century*. He has completed three papers, "Historians and Citizenship: Patriots and Partisans in Interwar Polish Historiography," "On the Margin: Jewish Historians in Interwar Poland," and "Dramatic changes: Historians Living through Three Transformations."

## Jeff Mullins

Jeffrey Mullins earned his Ph.D. in 1998 (Johns Hopkins University) and joined the History Department in 1999. His focus is in 18th and 19th-century American history, with a special interest in race and social reform. In the past academic year, Mullins' article titled "Race, Place, and African American Disenfranchisement in the Early Nineteenth-Century

American North" appeared in the journal *Citizenship Studies*, and his article "'Fitted to Receive the Word of God': Emotions and Scientific Naturalism in the Religious Revivals of the 1830s" will appear in the forthcoming issue of *The International Social Science Review*. Additionally, he has written a lengthy article on "Free Black Communities as Post-Emancipation Societies" for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Abolitionism* (Greenwood Press).

## Peter Nayenga

Peter Nayenga continues to enjoy his multiple roles involving teaching various African history courses, directing the African Studies Program, working with the Center for International Studies, Ethnic Studies Department, and Multicultural Student Services in preparing students going to study at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa), and being Chair of the History Department.

Indeed, such a hectic schedule leaves little room for him to "stand and stare," but it gives him gratification to see the achievements being made by our students and in the department. In recognition of his involvement in varied activities at SCSU campus, students of color selected and gave him the annual award of "Professor of the Year, 2006."

He made a trip to Uganda between July-August 2005. This was indeed a memorable trip in that it gave him a unique opportunity to connect up with colleagues at Makerere University (Uganda's famous university once known in academic circles as "the Harvard of Africa..." Star and Tribune, Minneapolis, May 30, 1990, p. 2), collected unique research materials, conducted oral interviews, and attended a conference at Busoga College, Mwiri. Data collected from this trip is being used for his long-term projects titled The Transformation of Busoga, Uganda, 1800-1939 and The Immigrant Experience.

## John Philip Ness

In addition to his assignments teaching Asian history and coordinating the

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department's graduate student program, John Ness is the director of the East Asian Studies (EAST) program at SCSU. EAST is housed in the History Department in the College of Social Sciences, but it is a university-wide program sponsoring speakers, workshops, study abroad programs, as well as offering students a multi-disciplinary minor in East Asian Studies. This year's Spring Asian Forum sponsored by EAST featured a lecture by Ching Kwan Lee of the University of Michigan, "Made in China Too: Labor Protest in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt."

The program continues to be a force lobbying for the re-establishment of the teaching of Asian languages at SCSU. That effort bore fruit this year with the return of Japanese and Chinese language instruction at SCSU after a seven year hiatus. This fact also contributed to the success of a three week study abroad course co-sponsored by EAST and the department of Ethnic Studies. A group of twenty-two students and six faculty members including Ness visited Yunnan, Guizhou and Beijing May 22-June 11, 2006.

Ness also had an article accepted for publication in the Journal of Ming Studies, "The Yang Family of Bozhou: A Case Study of an Aboriginal Office on the Southwest Frontier during the Ming Dynasty."

#### **Maureen O'Brien**

Maureen O'Brien has happily joined the faculty of the department of history after a year as a fixed-term member. She came to St. Cloud after a year at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. O'Brien did her doctoral work at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Before that, she completed Master degrees at the Medieval Institute at WMU and in the department of History at the University of Notre Dame. Her research has focused on the foundation and expansion of the abbey of La Chaise-Dieu in the Auvergne of France during the 11th and

12th centuries. O'Brien has three teaching fields: ancient, medieval, and the Middle East. She also enjoys teaching historical methods and historiography [much to the delight of her colleagues!].

#### **Mary Wingerd**

Mary Wingerd is currently working on a new interpretive history of Minnesota, to be published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2008 in honor of the state sesquicentennial. She contributed a lengthy entry on St. Paul/Minneapolis to the *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY*. Wingerd gave the plenary address at a Teaching American History Conference, held at the Elmer L. Anderson Library, University of Minnesota. The title of her lecture was "Revisiting the Melting Pot: Immigration, Place, and Ethnicity." Finally, Wingerd was a featured guest on the Jack Rice Show, WCCO Radio, discussing the Minneapolis labor movement.

## **News from Emeriti Faculty**

#### **Meredith Medler and Cal Gruver**

Meredith Medler gave a lecture in April to the Emeritus College at St. Scholastica on the Early Modern European Witch-Craze. She continues as President of the Two Harbors Friends of the Library, and also does other volunteer work for the library. She is a volunteer Docent at Glensheen Mansion in Duluth (the historical Congdon Estate), giving tours once or twice a week.

Cal Gruver is still on the Board of Directors of the American Boxer Club and is editor of their Educational Bulletin, which comes out four times a year. He also helps manage the Web Site for his hometown of Ogilvie, Minnesota, where he gathers much historical material.

Both Meredith and Cal support the Lake County Historical Society in Two Harbors.

#### **Dale Peterson**

On May 9th of this year, Dale Peterson and his wife flew to Copenhagen. It was the beginning of a trip of three weeks throughout the Scandinavian countries. One of the sights they saw was Tivoli gardens. There, in addition to lovely gar-

dens, are amusement activities and restaurants. They also walked down the pedestrian shopping street where Patricia purchased a Danish Christmas plate for 2006. They took the train to Roskilde where there is an impressive cathedral.

Dale and Patricia then flew to Oslo, and while they were there enjoyed the 17th of May celebration (Constitution Day). They walked to the main street where bands played, and children from schools marched down to the castle of the royal family. Many women were dressed in their colorful bunads, and a few men wore traditional costumes. They flew from Oslo to Bodo, which is near the Arctic Circle. From there they took a train to a nearby town where they were met by a genealogist. She drove them to two areas where some of Dale's ancestors had lived (on his father's fathers' side of the family). She also drove them to the home of Dale's third cousin, Geir Hegmo. They were served a delicious Norwegian meal, and Dale learned more about some of his ancestors.

After visiting an elderly cousin of Patricia in central Sweden (Hilda is 88 years old), they traveled to their final destination,

Stockholm. In Stockholm they toured the city hall, which is a magnificent building, and took a cruise on the archipelago on a beautiful summer day.

They returned on May 30th after having had a very worthwhile trip.

#### **Ed Pluth**

Ed Pluth enjoys his retirement and keeps busy with house and yard work, reading, doing crossword puzzles, family history and a little travel. He has continued his interest in history through research and attending several regional conferences. This past fall, he presented a paper on SE Todd county during WW I at the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Eau Claire. At that same conference, he was awarded the 2005 Larry Rowan Remele Award "for outstanding service to the conference...." This was quite an honor he was most appreciative to receive. In March, 2006, he commented on two papers on early 19th century American history at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha. A small group of retired History teachers still meet in St. Cloud once a month for breakfast and it is always good to visit together.

## Alumnae News

**Lisa L. (Nuehring) Backenbaugh** (BS 1989; MA 1998) is currently an historian and senior military analyst for the U.S. Army's Combat Studies Institute, Contemporary Operational Studies Team in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

## Phi Alpha Theta

How can SCSU history students better connect with both professors and each other? How can they promote and improve the study of history "from the bottom up"? For a few interested students, the answer to these questions was simple: revive St. Cloud State's defunct chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the nation's history honor society. Over the last year, they did just that. Today, the new-and-improved chapter is poised to become an integral part of 'the community of historians' here at SCSU.

Phi Alpha Theta was established in 1921 at the University of Arkansas. Officially, the mission of the organization "is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. We seek to bring students, teachers and writers of history together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist historical research and publication by our members in a variety of ways." Here at SCSU, the student officers of the group have decided that mission means an inclusive membership and varied activities.

Phi Alpha Theta national is an exclusive honor society that exists in part to honor top students in the field of history. To be eligible for membership, undergraduate students must have completed at least 12 semester hours (4 courses) in history with a GPA of at least 3.1 in history, have a GPA of 3.0 or better overall, and be in the top 35% of their class. Graduate students should have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours towards their master's



*Some of the Phi Alpha Theta inductees and faculty at this spring's induction ceremony*

degree in history, have a GPA of better than 3.5, and have completed approximately 30% of the residence requirements for the master's degree.

While this sort of accolade is laudable, the student organizers of St. Cloud's Phi Alpha Theta group wanted it to be more inclusive and more involved in recruitment. That is why, after some deliberation, the organizers created an umbrella organization, named Alpha Epsilon Omega, which has two components: Phi Alpha Theta and History Club. The honor of Phi Alpha Theta membership, with all its positive accoutrements, is still available to qualifying members—but membership in the History Club is open to anyone who is interested in history, regardless of GPA or class ranking.

In May 2006, Mary Wingerd, the chapter's faculty advisor, inducted eleven members into Phi Alpha Theta and thirteen members into the History Club. All of these students are excited about the possibilities that such an organization can offer. This fall semester, the officers plan to have events twice a month. Each month they will be holding a 'Movie Night', with a professor asked to comment about the historical accuracy of the movie. These movie showings will be open to all students, and will be publicized extensively in order to promote both the Alpha Epsilon Omega club and the study of history in general. This ongoing promotion will begin right away

in September with a screening of Tom Cruise's "The Last Samurai." John Ness, SCSU's resident expert on Asian history, will analyze the movie.

The organization will also hold a more 'serious' meeting on a monthly basis. For the first meeting of this type, also in September, SCSU Emeritus faculty member Paul Vaughter will speak on the Roman wall in Britain. Other planned events are a field trip to the Minnesota Historical Society archives and discussion groups on various topics in history.

As these plans show, the Alpha Epsilon Omega organization seeks to provide a vehicle for both the promotion of the study of history and the networking of history lovers here at SCSU. Anyone with an interest in the organization, either as a student or as a supporter, should contact the chapter's president, Mike Westrate, at [wemi0503@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:wemi0503@stcloudstate.edu).

## Scholarship Awards

*The Faculty and Staff of the History Department take special delight in congratulating the following recipients of the History Department Scholarships for the 2006-07 academic year:*

### **Calvin, Elio, and Alma Gower Scholarship**

Elizabeth Kunkel

### **James A. and Muriel Grunerud Scholarship in History**

Beverly Knudsen

Mark Kreuger

Matthew Lambaere

### **Edward Solberg/The Prudential Foundation Scholarship**

Diana Emery

William Floersheim

Timothy James

Gordon Schrubbe

### **Alton C. and Haidako H. Wolfer Scholarship in History**

Emily Meinert

## College of Social Sciences Dean's List 2005

*Congratulations to the History majors who made the Dean's List in 2005:*

### **SPRING 2005**

Christopher Bolliger

Diana Emery

Cody Gulick

Kevin Haegele

Jennifer Johanneck

Jessica Kampa

Thomas Lies

Allison Peipus

Matthew Ryman

Kari Smoley

John Terry

Kerry Wood

Ronald Woolery

### **FALL 2005**

Christopher Bolliger

Weston Borkenhagen

Diana Emery

Kevin Haegele

Edward Jordan

Jessica Kampa

Travis Keil

Beverly Knudsen

Robert Kurz

Thomas Lies

Allison Peipus

Matthew Ryman

John Terry

Kerry Wood

Ronald Woolery



# History Graduates 2005

*The History Department extends its best wishes for a bright and prosperous future to the graduates of 2005:*

## SPRING 2005

### Bachelor of Arts

Sara M. Beck  
Katie J. Brambrink  
Benjamin D. Carlson  
Brent C. Carron  
Julie M. Herbst  
Knute L. Hofsommer  
Jennifer U. Johanneck  
Sabrina L. Knutson  
Austin T. Osman  
Jeremy E. Simon  
John J. Telischak

### Bachelor of Elective Studies

Sarah L. Bjork

### Bachelor of Science

Chad A. Bleess  
Mitchell P. Burmis  
Erin C. Flynn  
Amy J. Getsch  
Matthew J. Hoelscher  
Stacia R. Jersvig  
Melissa M. Langer  
Joanna M. Latterell  
Christine M. Lund  
Christopher G. Mackner  
Michael E. Metcalf  
Nicole L. Polipnick  
Jennifer K. Radebaugh  
Kelly A. Sievert  
Benjamin A. Sisterman  
Joshua M. VanDonsel  
Suzanne M. Winkelman  
Joseph J. Zierden  
Travis C. Zollner

### Master of Arts

Jessica A. Tarbox

## SUMMER 2005

### Bachelor of Arts

David F. Blanchard  
Nathan G. Engstrom  
Travis J. Hoover

### Bachelor of Elective Studies

Matthew J. Blissenbach  
Kimberly C. Markwardt

### Bachelor of Science

Christopher A. Pappas

### Master of Arts

Michael M. Kithinji  
Lance E. Nydeen  
David M. Sorensen

### Master of Science

Kathryn A. Ulm

## FALL 2005

### Bachelor of Arts

Carrie L. Abraham  
Weston E. Borkenhagen  
Kathleen J. Brehmer  
Alexander R. Hoes  
Craig Janezich

Erin R. Larson

David E. Mathern

Leah D. Matsen

Kari L. Mertens

Alan J. Santoro

Kari A. Smoley

Ronald B. Woolery

### Bachelor of Elective Studies

Patrick J. Gibbs

Sarah M. LaVine

Brian E. McNeil

### Bachelor of Science

Christopher M. Conway

Autumn A. Emmert

Stephen D. Engelman

Sarah E. Hentges

Matthew S. Hoepner

Marija R. Lee

Eric D. Parpart

Andrea J. R. Podpeskar

### Master of Arts

Amy M. Hines Kramer

### Master of Science

Joshua L. Kaeppe





## We Would Like to Hear from You !!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Degree and year received \_\_\_\_\_

Current Duties and Activities \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional Information and Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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